

REMARKS

Claims 16-36 are pending. Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action dated October 4, 2006 (“Office Action”) in this Application. Applicants present the above amendments and following remarks in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claim 25 has been amended in this Response. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants have amended the Specification in this Response. Applicants present the Specification amendments in order to correct minor typographical errors, and respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Claims 25-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, regarding Claim 25, the Examiner states that “the phrase ‘the subunit’” and “the phrase ‘the predetermined bit position’ lack[] proper antecedent basis.” Office Action, Page 2. Applicants have amended Claim 25 in this Response to recite, in relevant part, “to provide a clock signal to *a* subunit based on *a* predetermined bit position associated with the subunit.” (Emphasis added). Claims 26-32 depend on a further limit Claim 25. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 25-32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn and that Claims 25-32 be allowed.

Claims 16-23, 25-31, and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0135779 by Takashima et al. (“Takashima”). Claims 24 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Takashima. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

First, as to independent Claims 16, 25, and 33, Applicants respectfully submit that Takashima fails to teach, suggest, or disclose each and every element as recited in the Claims. Nevertheless, as to Claims 16-36, Applicants also respectfully submit that Takashima is not a proper reference in this case.

Specifically, Takashima relies on a U.S. filing date of December 18, 2002 to establish its priority date. Applicants were in possession of, and had reduced to practice, the subject matter described and claimed in the original Application prior to December 18, 2002. Applicants have attached Affidavits Under Rule 131 showing actual reduction to practice prior to December 18, 2002. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that each and every rejection based in any part on Takashima be withdrawn. As there are no rejections that do not rely on Takashima in this case, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 16-36 are clearly patentable over all the appropriate art of record in this case, alone or in any combination.

Applicants have now addressed all of the Claim objections and rejections cited in the Office Action. In view of the Claim amendments and Applicants' remarks, Applicants believe that pending Claims 16-36 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request allowance of Claims 16-36.

Applicant hereby requests an extension of time for making this reply and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge the required fee to Deposit Account No. 09-0447 of IBM Corporation. Applicant believes no additional fees are due in this Response. In the event that any other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 09-0447 of IBM Corporation.

The present amendment is believed to contain a complete response to the issues raised in the Office Action. Full reconsideration is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any questions, comments or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference. In particular, should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is also invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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